



COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER

No 128
November 2019

Coming soon...

Members' meeting:

Mon. 25th November

**'Around The Garden
in 350 Years' –**

**Simon Milne, MBE,
Regius Keeper,
Royal Botanic
Gardens Edinburgh**

**Don't forget – the
Christmas Party this
year will be on
Monday 9th December
2019. Tickets will be
available at the
meeting on 25th
November**



Dear members

Autumn is upon us again, the clocks have gone back and it's dark at four o'clock. Where did the summer go? The Garden Club was amazingly fortunate with its Outings this summer – we had a perfect evening for our May Evening Open Garden Event at Anna Buxton's lovely garden in Murrayfield and, despite a dreadful

weather forecast, it stayed dry for our own very successful Members' Open Gardens event in June and only started to rain just after it was finished. Our Summer Outing was also so lucky with sunshine for both our visits to Portmore Garden and Blackdykes near North Berwick and the rain started as we were leaving.

My various visitors from the Continent were thrilled to escape the 30+ degree heat they had been enduring for weeks, but even they got a bit fed up with the torrential downpours that arrived from nowhere and drenched them before, as they complained, they could even get their umbrellas up. I kept saying "at least it's quite warm", 20C is of course quite warm for us, and the gardens did profit from all the precipitation, but nonetheless it was wonderful to go over to France in September and enjoy real summer weather and actually wear summer clothes every day and not have to carry an umbrella all the time.

Our new season started with a talk on George Forrest the plant hunter who lived from 1873 to 1932. Our speaker, Leonie Paterson, an archivist from the RBGE, had researched a huge amount of information on him and told us about his truly terrifying exploits in Yunnan, China, which included being pursued by Buddhist lamas during the 1905 Tibetan rebellion who were determined to finish him off. He escaped, and afterwards */please turn to page 2*



Autumn is upon us and while Colinton is not exactly New England, we have enjoyed some incredible colours. Pictured above are, on the left a Horse-chestnut tree (Aesculus hippocastanum) and on the right the Honshu maple (Acer rufinerve)

Thanks to Bob Jones for the photos

News from the chair (continued)

made seven trips to Yunnan altogether and died and was buried there. He is credited with bringing back over 30,000 specimens from his expeditions. We have to thank him and the other intrepid Scottish plant hunters for the flowers which provide such pleasure and which we take for granted in our gardens today such as primulas, peonies, rhododendrons, meconopsis, and of course the trees including the Douglas Fir, native to the west coast of the United States and named after David Douglas who brought it back. These plants have altered the landscape and gardens of this country for ever.

Looking to the future, please remember that we need three members to present short 15 minute talks for our Members' Evening in January. This is your chance to show off your photos of the gardens or particular landscapes you have visited recently, and we love seeing them. So please volunteer.

Elsbeth

October members' meeting

Our speaker to a packed Dreghorn Hall on 28th October was Jim Jermyn who has had a long career in the horticultural industry and as well as being a world-renowned Alpine expert he has also operated a successful nursery exhibiting at the very highest level.

Jim has been involved with Gardening Scotland since its inception in 2000 and he is now Property Manager at NTS Branklyn Garden near Perth; he showed us the garden in its year-round beauty and we were particularly taken with the many varieties of meconopsis, which are a main feature of the garden

New committee members 2019

Colinton Garden Club is going from strength to strength with record numbers attending the Monday evening meetings. The organization of the club is undertaken by the committee, and four new CGC members joined the committee over the summer of 2019.

Murdo McEwan, Library and Liaison Officer commented on his new role 'The library, containing an eclectic assortment of gardening books, is set up to the right of the speaker at each meeting. Members are welcome to borrow books (at no cost); please return them at the next meeting. There is also a selection of gardening magazines available "free to good homes" and the Club Seed Box consisting of packets of assorted seeds, again available to members at no charge. By way of exchange I'm very happy to receive contributions of seeds to the seeds-swap box (in small envelopes / packets clearly labelled and dated, please eg "Meconopsis 2019"). Contributions of gardening magazines, in good condition, are also welcome'

Kate Macsween, said 'I have taken over the role of Outings Officer from Susan Plag. I look forward to planning some exciting and interesting visits for the Club in 2020: an Open Garden evening on a Monday in May, our Members' Open Garden event also in May or June, and a Saturday Summer outing in June or July. If you have any special requests, I would be very happy to hear from you. In the meantime, please do come and introduce yourselves at one of our meetings as I look forward to meeting you all in the coming year. Wishing every member "Happy Gardening".'

Ken Whitson has taken on the role of Hall / IT Officer. He is the 'Keeper of the Keys for the Hall' and 'Bits & PCs', i.e. all the kit needed for setting up the equipment for the evenings' speakers.

Elizabeth Emblem, has a 'floating' responsibility on the committee, helping out with various activities at different times of the year. She is looking forward to her time with the committee.

Despite heavy rains and a chilly wind, Garden Club members turned out in force to the Plant Sale held on Saturday 19th October. A fun morning was had by all, as you will see from these photos; we were particularly pleased to welcome our youngest 'members' yet – Elizabeth Emblem's grandchildren, who seem to be enjoying themselves... See if you can spot yourself in the photos!



Christmas Party 2019

The Christmas Party will take place at **8pm on Monday 9th December** at Dreghorn Hall. There will be entertainment, fun and a buffet to get us all into the Christmas spirit. Tickets (£10 each) will be available at the November meeting (Monday 25th November). If you would like a ticket to the party and cannot come to the November meeting, please phone Bryan Dale on 0131 441 2570

Programme of events for 2019-20

Monday 25 November 2019	'Around The Garden in 350 Years' – Simon Milne, MBE, Regius Keeper, Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 9 December 2019	Christmas Party 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 27 January 2020	Members' Evening - 3 short presentations by members. Details to follow 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 24 February 2020	Talk and Plant Stall – Sue Gray, Damhead Nursery 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall.
Monday 23 March 2020	'The National Collection of <i>Narcissus</i> Backhouse cvs. A unique insight' – Caroline Thomson, Backhouse Rossie Estate 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 27 April 2020	Annual General Meeting 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
A Monday evening in May	Evening Open Garden Details to follow
A Saturday in May / June	Local Open Gardens Details to follow
A Saturday in June / July	Summer Outing Details to follow

Brain-teaser

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W	S	H	J	Z	V	E	E	T	E	E	O	H
O	A	Q	U	K	B	W	H	S	Z	W	K	E
M	B	T	R	O	W	E	L	C	D	N	J	D
N	Y	I	E	U	N	X	A	L	W	O	P	C
W	P	L	M	R	B	R	I	C	R	T	W	A
A	Z	C	G	Y	I	F	G	A	R	D	E	N
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H	V	T	S	O	P	M	O	C	L	K	G	T
O	X	C	R	I	Q	O	P	D	A	S	J	X
E	H	R	I	K	L	R	A	S	Y	N	P	A

Susan McMaster has created a gardening-themed word search puzzle. Look for ten garden items hidden in the grid. These can be horizontal or vertical, can read forwards or backwards and there is even one which runs diagonally!

The solution will be provided in the February 2020 newsletter and will also be given on the website in mid-December.

Don't forget to look at the [CGC website](http://www.colintongardens.org.uk) for information about meetings and events, back issues of newsletters, and galleries of plants, gardens, CGC outings and events.
www.colintongardens.org.uk

Email: webmaster@colintongardens.org.uk